

# what's new **IN CALIFORNIA**



## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Barry Sedlik, Acting Secretary,  
California Business, Transportation  
and Housing Agency, Chair, CTTC

## CTTC

Caroline Beteta, Executive Director

Jennifer Jasper, Deputy Director,  
Communications  
916-319-5428  
[jjasper@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:jjasper@visitcalifornia.com)

Sam Caygill, Media Relations Manager  
What's New in California Editor  
916-319-5424  
[scaygill@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:scaygill@visitcalifornia.com)

Leona Reed, Media Relations Manager  
916-319-5421  
[lreed@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:lreed@visitcalifornia.com)

California Travel and Tourism Commission  
980 9th Street, Suite 480  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: 916-444-4429

Fax: 916-444-0410

E-mail: [info@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:info@visitcalifornia.com)  
[visitcalifornia.com](http://visitcalifornia.com)

© 2007 California Travel and  
Tourism Commission

## EDITOR'S NOTE

There is always something new and exciting in California. As your resource for statewide news, the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) is pleased to present this release describing new developments taking place in the various regions of the Golden State. Consumers can get free California travel planning information by visiting CTTC's Web site at [visitcalifornia.com](http://visitcalifornia.com) or by writing to the address above.

Residents of the United States and Canada can also receive travel planning information by calling (800) 862-2543. International travelers need to dial (916) 444-4429.



## AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA RETURNS WITH MORE WORLD- CLASS CYCLING

The Amgen Tour  
of California

is set to race 650 miles down the state February 18–25, 2007. Beginning with the prologue through the streets of downtown San Francisco and traveling over the next week on a newly created course, more than 150 of the world's best professional cyclists will race through "host cities" Sausalito, Santa Rosa, Sacramento (new in 2007), Stockton (new in 2007), San Jose, Seaside (new in 2007), San Luis Obispo, Solvang (new in 2007), Santa Barbara and Santa Clarita (new in 2007), concluding for the first time in Long Beach. The inaugural Amgen Tour of California generated \$100 million in economic growth for the state throughout the eight days of the race and attracted 1.3 million spectators, setting records for a single sporting event in the state of California as well as any cycling event ever held on U.S. soil. Media contact: Michael Roth, AEG, (213) 742-7155, [mroth@aeg-la.com](mailto:mroth@aeg-la.com), [www.aegworldwide.com](http://www.aegworldwide.com). Public contact: Amgen Tour of California, [ATOCGeneralInfo@amgentourofcalifornia.com](mailto:ATOCGeneralInfo@amgentourofcalifornia.com), [www.amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com).

## CALIFORNIA TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMMISSION LAUNCHES WINE REWARDS PROGRAM

Guests to various California hotels can now be rewarded with \$25 California Wine Country Rewards Cards just for staying there. The program is a partnership between the California Travel and Tourism Commission, various California hotels and leading California wineries that through coordination by the California Wine

Institute will provide the \$25 reward good toward wine purchases. Hotels will distribute California Wine Country Rewards Cards now through January 15, 2007. Wineries will accept rewards until March 15, 2007 at the winery or online. This is a statewide program—travelers will be able to earn Wine Country Rewards Cards at nearly 50 hotels and redeem them at over 25 wineries throughout the state. More information is available at [www.visitcalifornia.com/wine](http://www.visitcalifornia.com/wine). Media contact: Jennifer Jasper, California Travel and Tourism Commission, (916) 319-5428, [jjasper@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:jjasper@visitcalifornia.com), [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com). Public contact: [www.visitcalifornia.com/wine](http://www.visitcalifornia.com/wine).



## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RECREATION MAP RELEASED

A new and improved, four-color map pinpointing the

top 200 recreational opportunities available on public lands in Northern California has just been released. The map, developed

## INSIDE

- 1 Shasta Cascade
- 2 North Coast
- 3 San Francisco Bay Area
- 4 Central Valley
- 5 Gold Country
- 6 High Sierra
- 7 Central Coast
- 8 Los Angeles County
- 10 Orange County
- 11 Deserts
- 11 Inland Empire
- 12 San Diego County
- 14 Looking To The Future

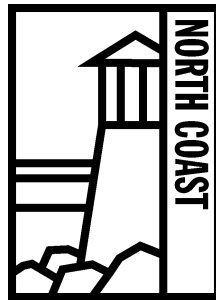
by the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association (SCWA), with funding from the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Lassen Volcanic National Park, is a traveler's "one-stop shop" for outdoor recreation in Northern California. It includes campgrounds, trails, state and national parks, wildlife viewing sites and sites managed by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, California State Parks, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish & Game. The reverse of the map is an information grid that highlights all of the amenities and services available at each recreation attraction, along with management unit phone numbers for further information. This map is available from the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, as well as Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices throughout the north state. Media and public contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, (530) 365-7504, [karen@shastacascade.org](mailto:karen@shastacascade.org), [www.shastacascade.org](http://www.shastacascade.org).

#### **NEW UPSTATE CALIFORNIA AG, NATURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM MAP**

The New Upstate California Adventures publication provides travelers with color-coded information in one of the most beautiful, rugged, historic and nurturing parts of California. Travelers can find information to explore, discover and experience the intrigue and beauty of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties like never before. Whether your interest is agricultural adventures, wildlife/nature, museums/cultural sites, breweries, wineries/vineyards, lakes/rivers, national forests/parks, historic landmarks, sightseeing or agricultural products/retail stores, Upstate California Adventures includes it all. Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, (530) 365-7504, [karen@shastacascade.org](mailto:karen@shastacascade.org), [www.shastacascade.org](http://www.shastacascade.org). Public contact: Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council, (530) 865-5058, [council@csvrcc.com](mailto:council@csvrcc.com), [www.csvrcc.com](http://www.csvrcc.com).

#### **"WOMEN ONLY!" EXHIBIT AT TURTLE BAY EXPLORATION PARK**

Running through January 14, 2007, "Women Only! In Their Studios," is a contemporary art exhibition featuring 20 of America's most prominent women artists. This exciting show highlights the groundbreaking work of these artists and gives insight into their lives through studio photos and interpretive panels. Among other artists, "Women Only! In Their Studios" features the exquisite story quilts of world-renowned artist Faith Ringgold and gives visitors the opportunity to learn how she combines painting, quilted fabric and storytelling. Media contact: Karen Whitaker, Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association, (530) 365-7504, [karen@shastacascade.org](mailto:karen@shastacascade.org), [www.shastacascade.org](http://www.shastacascade.org). Public contact: Angela Torretta, Turtle Bay Exploration Park, (530) 242-3143, [www.turtlebay.org](http://www.turtlebay.org).



#### **BERRY GLEN COTTAGE**

This newly opened contemporary cottage near Orick is the perfect base of operations for exploring the ancient redwood forests and the

Pacific Northwest coast. Roosevelt elk often graze near the cozy barn-like space, situated on three acres surrounded by Redwood National Park trails. And it's only minutes from the ocean. The open floor plan has five sleeping areas, fireplace, kitchen and more. Media contact: Richard Stenger, Humboldt County Convention & Visitors Bureau, (707) 444-6634 or (800) 346-3482 x204, [richard@redwoods.info](mailto:richard@redwoods.info), [www.redwoods.info](http://www.redwoods.info). Public contact: Carole Hurst, Berry Glen Cottage, (707) 488-2304, [churst8@yahoo.com](mailto:churst8@yahoo.com).

#### **CASTELLO DI AMOROSA**

Thirteen years in the making, Castello di Amorosa located in the hills just south of Calistoga in the Napa Valley is set to open to the public starting January 2007. For years, owner Daryl Sattui researched European castles so that he could replicate one in California that would also serve to produce high-end wines. Perched on a steep hill, the castle is surrounded by high walls,

ramparts and five, 60-foot-high defensive towers. It contains courtyards, loggias and 107 rooms, each room different. It has a deep well for a source of water and possesses a church, stables, a completely frescoed great hall with a massive hand carved stone fireplace, royal apartment, large kitchen, secret passageways, prison and torture chamber complete with authentic torture devices, and an escape tunnel. Its walls are made with hand chiseled local stone and its ceilings are vaulted with 200-year-old, handmade brick from Europe and local giant timbers. All doors, door and window surrounds, gates, light fixtures and other details are made by hand using medieval designs and methods of construction. The 121,000 square-foot Castello di Amorosa produces high end wines primarily from Italian grape varieties, which will be sold direct to the consumer from the winery only with no distribution to stores or restaurants. Media contact: Ricco Nel, Castello di Amorosa Winery, (707) 738-7369, [customer@castellodiamorosa.com](mailto:customer@castellodiamorosa.com). Public contact: (707) 286-7212, [info@castellodiamorosa.com](mailto:info@castellodiamorosa.com), [www.castellodiamorosa.com](http://www.castellodiamorosa.com).

#### **CHANRIC INN OPENS IN CALISTOGA**

The Chanric Inn is a celebrated new property in Calistoga catering to discerning travelers seeking exceptional food and wine, coupled with a high level of personal service. The blending of an 1875 Victorian with a "modern chic" décor creates a stylish ambiance, refreshing to the eye. Guests slumber in heavenly beds with high thread count Egyptian cotton sheets and fluffy down comforters. The morning greets them with a chef-prepared, spa-inspired brunch served restaurant-style at tables for two on the patio. Topping it off, the curvaceous pool and spa offer a gorgeous view of the Palisades Mountains. Media and public contact: Ric Pielstick or Channing McBride, The Chanric Inn, (707) 942-4535, [info@thechanricinn.com](mailto:info@thechanricinn.com), [www.thechanricinn.com](http://www.thechanricinn.com).

#### **COOKING WITH JULIE OFFERS CLASSES AT CHURCHILL MANOR BED AND BREAKFAST**

Travelers can learn to cook delicious meals with authentic wine country style through Cooking with Julie classes at Churchill

Manor Bed and Breakfast. The classes are taught by Julie Logue-Riordan a Certified Culinary Professional who has been teaching for more than 20 years. These essential classes take a hands-on approach to cooking, combining a relaxed, congenial atmosphere with detailed instruction that guides students through every stage of recipe preparation. Highlighting the best each season has to offer, Julie sources premium ingredients from local family farms that provide everything from fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs to artisan cheeses, wine vinegars and olive oils. Julie uses organic milk and cream from local dairies, as well as free-range chicken and grass-fed beef from nearby ranches. The cooking classes feature fine wines from award-winning Napa Valley wineries, often poured by the vintners themselves. Customizing the classes to accommodate the skill levels of the various participants, Julie and her special guest chefs provide a thorough overview of each subject. In addition to learning recipes and mastering key techniques, students will gain an in-depth understanding of theories that will create a strong foundation for a confident and varied culinary repertoire. Media and public contact: Julie Logue-Riordan, Cooking with Julie, (707) 227-5036, [julie@cookingwithjulie.com](mailto:julie@cookingwithjulie.com), [www.cookingwithjulie.com](http://www.cookingwithjulie.com).

#### **HORIZON AIR TO SERVICE SONOMA COUNTY**

Horizon Air will provide nonstop service from Sonoma County/Santa Rosa to Los Angeles and Seattle starting March 20, 2007. Service to Los Angeles (LAX) will be twice daily Sunday through Friday and once on Saturdays, and service to Seattle will be once daily. Flights will be operated with 76-seat Q400 high-speed turboprop aircraft. With its near jet-like speed, the Q400 will take one hour and 40 minutes to Los Angeles and two hours and 15 minutes to Seattle. Statistics show that among the destinations travelers fly to from the five-county Sonoma County airport region, Los Angeles (LAX) ranks No. 2 and Seattle (SEA) No. 5. Horizon said its Los Angeles flights will depart from Sonoma County early enough for North Bay travelers to get a full business day in L.A. and return home the same night. The flights will also make convenient connections to many international flights

out of L.A. Media contact: Jon Stout, Charles M. Schulz—Sonoma County Airport (STS), (707) 565-7243. Public contact: Horizon Air, (800) 547-9308, [www.horizonair.com](http://www.horizonair.com), [www.flywinecountry.com](http://www.flywinecountry.com).



#### **ALCATRAZ CRUISES BEGINS EXCLUSIVE FERRY SERVICE TO ALCATRAZ ISLAND**

The on-island

Alcatraz experience and transportation to the island has recently changed. The departure point for the cruises will be Alcatraz Landing, Pier 33. Shuttles to Alcatraz Landing will pick up and drop off at locations throughout Fisherman's Wharf from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Shuttle fee is \$2 for adults and free for ages under 12. A collaborative partnership with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy includes a number of on-island improvements. Beginning February 2007, the existing cell block audio tour, and some of the infrastructure, will be substantially upgraded. Visitors enter from the bottom of the cellhouse, through the entrance prisoners originally used, rather than the top, where they used to enter. The audio tour will take visitors up through the building and end in a new, much larger 3,000-square-foot museum store. The theatre in which the island orientation is held is being upgraded and plays a newly released video about Alcatraz. In conjunction with the launch of the new tour and facilities, the Castro Theatre will hold an Alcatraz Film Festival in early February. Behind the scenes, \$11 million in seismic retrofitting has been done, with more to come. Media Contact: Rich Weideman, National Park Service, (415) 561-4730, [rich\\_weideman@nps.gov](mailto:rich_weideman@nps.gov). Public contact: Alcatraz Cruises, (415) 981-ROCK (7625), [www.alcatrazcruises.com](http://www.alcatrazcruises.com).

#### **THE MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY DISPLAYS "CORPUS PERSPICUUS: THE BODY TRANSPARENT"**

The Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center in downtown Santa

Cruz presents a new exhibit, "Corpus Perspicuus: The Body Transparent," opening December 16, 2006 and continuing through April 1, 2007. Historically, the human body has been an expressive vehicle and a repository for human experience. Here it is newly examined by artists Thekla Hammond, Cheryl Calleri and Tobin Keller in contemporary transparent mediums. The artists in this exhibition have created transparent and reflective acrylic material to shape an exploration into the complexity and transitory nature of our lives within our bodies. Media contact: Christina Glynn, Santa Cruz Conference & Visitors Council, (831) 427-4405 x112, [cglynn@santacruz.org](mailto:cglynn@santacruz.org), [www.santacruz.org](http://www.santacruz.org). Public contact: Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center, (831) 429-1964, [www.santacruzmah.org](http://www.santacruzmah.org).

#### **OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES ARTWORK FROM OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOODS**

Can the experience of learning and creating art together strengthen a family? Benefit a community? "100 Families: Art & Social Change," a program launched by the Center for Art and Public Life at the California College of the Arts (CCA) in 2005, gave families in East Oakland, Chinatown, Fruitvale and West Oakland the opportunity to be creative together in a series of 10 weekend workshops. An exhibition of their work will be on display starting January 20–April 22, 2007. Three related programs are planned during the exhibition time frame: "Musical Masterpieces Explorations!," January 28, 2007, is a Black History Event allowing families to explore the connection between music and the visual arts; "Lunar New Year Celebration," February 18, 2007, is an afternoon event including demonstrations of Pacific Rim traditions through hands-on activities, performances and craft booths; and "Family Explorations! Celebrate 100 Families Oakland," March 18, 2007, will include the artist families engaging other families in learning together by making art, and visitors can also enjoy short films and live performances. Media contact: Elizabeth Whipple, Oakland Museum of California, (510) 238-4740, [ewhipple@museumca.org](mailto:ewhipple@museumca.org). Public contact: (510) 238-2200, [www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org).

### SAN FRANCISCO'S CHALETs CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH NEW CARRIAGE RIDE

In addition to celebrating its 10th anniversary on Ocean Beach in 2007, the Beach Chalet Brewery & Restaurant has added something exciting to its "destination restaurant experience." Carriage rides through Golden Gate Park's West End are now available and continue every weekend in 2007, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They're perfect for couples and great fun for up to four guests, with rides beginning at the Park Chalet Garden Restaurant adjacent to the Beach Chalet. The journey includes a visit to Queen Wilhelmina's Windmill and Dutch tulip garden, and guests are served champagne and hot cocoa. Chalet carriage rides are available by advance reservations and are exclusive to dining guests. The half-hour carriage ride experience is \$75 per party and includes a \$10 donation to Golden Gate Park. The Beach Chalet Brewery & Restaurant and the Park Chalet Garden Restaurant are located between Golden Gate Park and the Pacific Ocean on San Francisco's Ocean Beach. The Beach Chalet serves "modern American cuisine" with seaside accents, in a vibrant setting with oceanic motif and panoramic Pacific views. The Park Chalet is the Beach Chalet's hip "little sister" in the "backyard," with retractable glass walls that create a wonderfully natural ambiance that enhances the restaurant's sumptuous small plates menu and colorful cocktails. Guests of both venues enjoy the Beach Chalet's award-winning, handcrafted ales and house-made desserts. Media contact: Dan Marengo, Graham & Associates, (415) 986-7212, [dmarengo@graham-associates.com](mailto:dmarengo@graham-associates.com). Public contact: The Beach Chalet, (415) 386-8439, [www.beachchalet.com](http://www.beachchalet.com).

### SAN MATEO COUNTY: AS FRESH AS IT GETS

The new "San Mateo County: As Fresh As It Gets" awards program, recently launched by the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the San Mateo County Farm Bureau, was designed to recognize local restaurants, hotels and caterers that make an effort to buy and serve produce from local San Mateo County growers, seafood caught off of San Mateo County's coastline, and beer and wine made in the county. The campaign ties together the county's agriculture, tourism, and fishing

industries and promotes healthy, fresh gourmet meals by educating restaurants, hotels and consumers, and rewarding and promoting establishments serving local products. The program's goal is to help the county's growers, fishermen and wine and beer makers while making San Mateo County a world-class destination for culinary tourism. Media contact: Margi Grant, San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (650) 348-7600 x111, [margi@smccvb.com](mailto:margi@smccvb.com). Public contact: (650) 348-7600, [www.visitsanmateocounty.com](http://www.visitsanmateocounty.com).

### SANTA CLARA HOTELS INVESTING SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL

With hotels surrounding the Santa Clara Convention Center averaging 80% occupancy in August 2006, travel to Silicon Valley has been on the rise. Several Santa Clara hotels have completed and are planning to complete multi-million dollar renovation projects. The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara will begin a multi-million dollar renovation of its 501 guestrooms and lobby beginning in March 2007. Also scheduled for a multi-million dollar renovation is the Marriott Santa Clara. The 755-room property will spend \$1.8 million renovating its two smaller ballrooms, and another \$22 million renovating all of its guestrooms by mid-2007. The Hilton Santa Clara is enhancing its guest rooms also with the "Hilton Suite Dreams Bed" by the end of 2006. Other multi-million dollar renovations include The Plaza Suites Hotel—Santa Clara who just completed a \$19 million renovation of all 220 of its two-room suites, and added a new 120-seat restaurant, business center and fitness center. The Holiday Inn Great America also updated its guest rooms with new bedding, window coverings and carpet. Media & public contact: David Andre, Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce & Convention-Visitors Bureau, (408) 380-1235, [david.andre@santaclara.org](mailto:david.andre@santaclara.org), [www.santaclara.org](http://www.santaclara.org).

### SEAL COVE INN IN MOSS BEACH JOINS FOUR SISTERS INNS COLLECTION

The highly regarded Seal Cove Inn in Moss Beach recently became the newest Four Sisters Inn. Sold to a private investor, the inn will be managed and marketed by Four Sisters Inns, becoming the twelfth property

in the collection. Located just 24 miles south of San Francisco, the Seal Cove Inn is an easy escape for residents of the Bay Area and a short drive for visitors flying in to San Francisco International Airport. Built in 1991, the 10-room property is just north of Half Moon Bay, set on a tranquil meadow overlooking acres of county park land and the ocean. It is popular with guests who enjoy strolling secluded beaches, exploring tide pools and watching the antics of the frolicking seals at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve for which the inn was named. Four Sisters Inns will undertake a gradual refurbishment of the Seal Cove Inn in 2007. Media contact: Sharon Rooney, Four Sisters Inns, (707) 838-1637, [sharon@foursisters.com](mailto:sharon@foursisters.com). Public contact: (650) 728-4114 or (800) 234-1425, [www.foursisters.com](http://www.foursisters.com).



### EXPLORIT OPENS NEW SCIENCE CENTER

The new Explorit Science Center building in Davis is set to hold its grand opening

on October 13. The new center located at 2nd Street and Pena Drive, will meet growing demands for programs and the programmatic expansion is happening in phases. The hallmark series of changing exhibitions (four per year) will be the first program to open at the new facility and will be housed on the first floor while a new main exhibition gallery of long-term exhibits is being developed, prototyped and tested on the second floor. The first of the changing exhibitions will be "Holes: An Opening into the Sciences." Explorit, founded in 1982, is a hands-on science museum located in Davis and aims "to involve people in science experiences that touch our lives." The previous site at 5th Street will remain open for special programs for school groups. Explorit is open to the public on weekends and weekday afternoons. School and other groups visit by appointment on weekday mornings. Media contact: Suzanne Ullensvang, Explorit Science Center, (530) 756-0191, [Suzanne@explorit.org](mailto:Suzanne@explorit.org). Public contact: (530) 756-0191, [explorit@explorit.org](mailto:explorit@explorit.org), [www.explorit.org](http://www.explorit.org).

### LODI IS DECORATED WITH NEW PUBLIC ART

Nine new murals decorate the city of Lodi in celebration of Lodi's 100th birthday. Painted by over 100 mural artists, each mural depicts a unique aspect of Lodi's history. From a mural of the early packing sheds to the Tokay Carnival, visitors can take a step back in time while strolling the charming brick-cobbled streets of downtown Lodi. Art lovers will appreciate the creative beauty while shoppers will love the unique boutique and antique shops that line the downtown's main street. A mural map can be picked up at the Lodi Conference & Visitors Bureau located at 115 S. School Street, Suite 9 in downtown Lodi. Media and public contact: Nancy Beckman, Lodi Conference & Visitors Bureau, (209) 365-1195, [nbeckman@visitlodi.com](mailto:nbeckman@visitlodi.com), [www.visitlodi.com](http://www.visitlodi.com).

### VACAVILLE ANNOUNCES OPENING OF THE NUT TREE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Travelers can now visit Vacaville and experience the renaissance of the new Nut Tree Village and the Family Park at Nut Tree. Visitors will be delighted to discover the Nut Tree Village, an open-air retail, restaurant and office project that complements the Family Park at Nut Tree. The Village's distinctive design offers shoppers a plethora of retail and dining choices. The Family Park at Nut Tree is a family-oriented amusement park that includes the original Nut Tree train, the Harvest Express Roller Coaster, the I-80 Traffic Jammers bumper cars, the musical California Carousel and other custom amusement rides. Guests can stroll under shaded trellises where children play games, celebrate their birthdays in the party gallery or ride replicas of the famous Nut Tree Hobby Horses. Nearby, the Bocce Grove will allow visitors the opportunity to enjoy a friendly game beneath the cool shelter of half-century old, heritage shade trees. Built in 1907, the Harbison House will be fully restored by 2009 as a centerpiece of the Family Park. Preservation efforts by the Vacaville Museum will include memorabilia reflecting the rich history of the original Nut Tree and California. Admission to the family park is free. Media and public contact: Antonette Eckert, Vacaville

Conference and Visitors Bureau, (707) 450-0512, [antonette@vacavillenow.com](mailto:antonette@vacavillenow.com), [www.vacavillenow.com](http://www.vacavillenow.com).

### NEW YOLO COUNTY GUIDE BOASTS COUNTY'S HERITAGE

The new Get Real in Yolo County Guide & Map produced by the Yolo County Visitors Bureau (YCVB) features farmers markets, visitor-friendly farms, B&Bs and unique country stays, agriculture or ecology based festivals, museums, parks, train tour and wineries. Along with the featured items, there is also a list of all county festivals, RV parks and a harvest schedule. The goal of the piece is to market the county's assets in one comprehensive guide featuring everything from small family farms to world-famous museums. Media contact: Yvette Mulholland, Yolo County Visitors Bureau, (530) 297-1900 or (877) 713-2847, [media@yolocvb.org](mailto:media@yolocvb.org). Public contact: Tiffany Dozier, (530) 297-1900 or (877) 713-2847, [info@yolocvb.org](mailto:info@yolocvb.org), [www.yolocvb.org](http://www.yolocvb.org).



### CALIFORNIA MUSEUM FOR HISTORY, WOMEN AND THE ARTS OPENS HALL OF FAME

The California Hall of Fame opened December 6 at the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts in Sacramento.

Conceived by First Lady Maria Shriver, the California Hall of Fame was established at the California Museum to honor legendary individuals and families who embody California's innovative spirit and have made their mark on history. The first-ever inductees into the California Hall of Fame are Ronald Reagan, Cesar Chavez, Walt Disney, Amelia Earhart, Clint Eastwood, Frank Gehry, David Ho, M.D., Billie Jean King, John Muir, Sally Ride, Alice Walker and the Hearst and Packard Families. Media contact: Ryan Jimenez, Office of First Lady Maria Shriver, (916) 445-7097, [ryan.jimenez@gov.ca.gov](mailto:ryan.jimenez@gov.ca.gov). Public contact: Kelly Bitz, California Museum for History, Women and the Arts, (916) 653-7524, [www.californiamuseum.org](http://www.californiamuseum.org).

### CROCKER ART MUSEUM PRESENTS ALLEN GINSBERG

Running through January 7, 2007, the Crocker Art Museum presents the photography of American Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, marking the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking publication of Howl, Ginsberg's poem for a restless generation. During two extended periods, Ginsberg trained his eye through the camera lens onto the tightly connected group of writers and circle of close friends who became to personify the Beats. For Ginsberg, snapshot photography granted him the instantaneous ability to capture the world in a way that fueled his insatiable impulse to describe all that surrounded him. Drawn from the private Pennsylvania collection of David Sestak, these black-and-white photographs present an intimate dialogue that ultimately addresses Ginsberg's own cultivation of—and grappling with—fame. The boundary between the public and personal identity of the Beat heroes is blurred in posed and candid moments stilled forever on film. Each photograph is accompanied by autobiographical commentary inscribed by Ginsberg. This running stream of Ginsberg's consciousness provides context for the images, yet also offers his spontaneous, poetic voice. Media contact: LeAnne Ruzzamenti, Crocker Art Museum, (916) 264-1963, [lruzzamenti@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:lruzzamenti@cityofsacramento.org). Public contact: (916) 264-5423, [www.crockerartmuseum.org](http://www.crockerartmuseum.org).

### BEST WESTERN OPENS IN ROSEVILLE

The Best Western Galleria Inn, recently opened in Roseville providing comfortable stays for leisure and business guests alike. The 83-room inn features spacious rooms with wired and wireless Internet access, microwaves and refrigerators, business center, fitness center, shuttle services, and banquet and meeting facilities. A complimentary continental breakfast bar is available to guests. Located near the Galleria Mall, the inn is near restaurants of all kinds, recreational facilities, and top corporate businesses. Media contact: Nicole Manucal, Heritage Hotel Group, (916) 293-1908, [nmanucal@heritagehotelgroup.com](mailto:nmanucal@heritagehotelgroup.com). Public contact: Best Western, (916) 774-6060, [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com).



### **EAGLE LODGE OFFERS NEW SCHOOL AND LEARNING AREA**

Mammoth is more family focused than ever, adding a third full-service Ski and Snowboard School

and new learning area at Eagle Lodge. Already a popular beginner area with the six-pack Eagle Express chairlift and gentle runs, new amenities to expand the learning area at Eagle Ski and Snowboard School include the installation of a 350-foot long surface lift and two magic carpets to provide a fun and easy way for kids to get uphill. A new structure is being built adjacent to Eagle Lodge and will house the Eagle Ski and Snowboard School and a new rental shop carrying a wide array of children's ski and snowboard equipment. For the first time, a full menu of group and private lessons will be available at Eagle Lodge. The learning area is the first stage of a complete redevelopment of Eagle Lodge, expected to be complete by the 2009/10 season. Media contact: Dana Vander Houwen, Mammoth Mountain, (760) 934-0645, [dana@mammoth-mtn.com](mailto:dana@mammoth-mtn.com). Public contact: 800-MAMMOTH (800-626-6684) or (760) 934-0745, [800mammoth@mammoth-mtn.com](mailto:800mammoth@mammoth-mtn.com), [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com).

### **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN TO DEBUT INTERPRETIVE CENTER**

The newest attraction at Mammoth Mountain for the 2006/07 winter season will be the state-of-the-art Top of the Sierra Interpretive Center designed to educate visitors about the surrounding area and the dynamic nature of the Eastern Sierra. Slated to open mid-winter, the center will feature five interactive displays with facts about local geology, hydrology, the volcanic history of Mammoth Mountain, the Long Valley Caldera and more. Skiers and snowboarders have enjoyed rides to the top of Mammoth for years. With the addition of the Top of the Sierra Interpretive Center, Mammoth's summit will truly be a destination for all types of people in all seasons. Over six years of research and project planning, plus more than \$1 million, has been invested for the initial opening of the Top of the Sierra Interpretive Center. Content for the center was envisioned with input from a coalition

of involved community members including representatives from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service, Paiute Tribal Council and local environmental organizations. Media contact: Dana Vander Houwen, Mammoth Mountain, (760) 934-0645, [dana@mammoth-mtn.com](mailto:dana@mammoth-mtn.com). Public contact: 800-MAMMOTH (800-626-6684) or (760) 934-0745, [800mammoth@mammoth-mtn.com](mailto:800mammoth@mammoth-mtn.com), [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com).

### **NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE RESORT BOASTS IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2006/07**

For the 2006/07 winter season, Northstar Resort invested \$10.5 million in the next phase of mountain improvements which resulted in the completion of two new Doppelmayr lifts. The new lifts include a high-speed six-pack called the Tahoe Zephyr which dramatically improves access to the Backside, and a surface lift called Lookout Link for access to Lookout Mountain. The new six-pack lift, whose base is situated directly across from the mid-mountain Day Lodge, whisks riders up nearly 1,050 vertical feet in just five minutes. The new six-pack accesses 13 total trails and 137 acres of total terrain, including 60 acres of new intermediate terrain. Included in this terrain is a new mile-long run called Drifter that connects guests directly from the top of the six-pack to the Backside. The second lift is a European-style surface lift. Lookout Link replaces Salmon Tow, which transported guests over to the resort's popular advanced terrain on Lookout Mountain. The new lift will be friendly to both skiers and snowboarders. The lift is easily accessible from the top of the new six-pack lift, providing convenient access to Lookout Mountain. Media contact: Nicole Cox, Booth Creek Ski Holdings, (530) 543-3132, [ncox@boothcreek.com](mailto:ncox@boothcreek.com). Public contact: [www.northstarattahoe.com](http://www.northstarattahoe.com).

### **SIERRA-AT-TAHOE INTRODUCES SCENIC VIEWS, PROGRESSION PARK AND WINE TASTINGS**

The grand view from Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort's summit is no longer reserved for skiers and snowboarders. New this season, non-skiers can ride the chairlift to the top of the mountain and savour the 360-degree panoramic view that features Lake Tahoe, Desolation Wilderness, Carson Pass, and on a clear day, Mount Diablo. For those

skiers/riders who are jib-phobic, Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort has teamed up with industry leader, Burton Snowboards, to introduce its Progression Park this season with boxes, jumps and rails all located mere inches from the ground, in non-intimidating fashion. A stop-and-drop zone and signage featuring trick tips from pro riders ensure that riders take their time before hitting each freestyle feature. Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort also offers lessons on these mini freestyle terrain features so that skiers/riders learn the proper technique when getting started. Also new this season, Sierra Resort has partnered with some of the distinctive wineries of El Dorado County to offer wine tastings in the Sierra Pub. Tastings are held twice a month from December to March, with featured wineries including Lava Cap, Boeger and Madrona. Food pairings are available at select wine pourings. Media contact: Nicole Cox, Sierra-at-Tahoe, (530) 543-3132, [ncox@boothcreek.com](mailto:ncox@boothcreek.com). Public contact: (530) 659-7453, [info@sierraattahoe.com](mailto:info@sierraattahoe.com), [www.sierraattahoe.com](http://www.sierraattahoe.com).

### **SQUAW VALLEY USA INTRODUCES SQUAW TV AND SQUAW SESSIONS**

With winter comes ever-changing weather, conditions and events, and in an effort to ease skier convenience, Squaw is introducing Squaw Valley TV. The service will be shown around the mountain via plasma television terminals relaying real time lift updates, information about conditions, weather events and activities. The broadcast will also include ski and snowboard tips from mountain pros. Media contact: Pettit Gilwee, Gilwee Public Relations, (530) 583-2138, [pettit@gilweepr.com](mailto:pettit@gilweepr.com). Public contact: North Lake Tahoe, (877) 949-3296, [www.gotahoenorth.com](http://www.gotahoenorth.com).

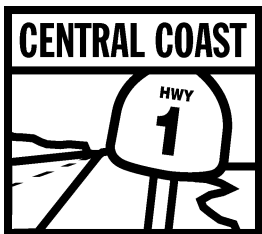
### **TRUCKEE HOTELS ADD VISITOR CHANNEL**

Five Truckee hotels will offer guests a new source of visitor information this winter with the addition of the Truckee Tahoe Visitor Channel (TTTV). Content covers information targeted to visitors' interests including local weather, resort conditions, road conditions, local live web camera images, dining, shopping and activity guides, and will be delivered direct to each hotel room and lobby 24 hours per day. Partner hotels include: Cedar House Sport Hotel, Best Western Truckee Tahoe Inn, Hampton Inn and

Suites, Holiday Inn Express and the Inn at Truckee. Media contact: Jenny Franklin or Nicole Klay, Switchback PR + Marketing, Inc., (530) 550-2252, [jfranklin@switchbackpr.com](mailto:jfranklin@switchbackpr.com) or [nklay@switchbackpr.com](mailto:nklay@switchbackpr.com), [www.switchbackpr.com](http://www.switchbackpr.com). Public contact: Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce, (530) 587-2757, [info@truckee.com](mailto:info@truckee.com), [www.truckee.com](http://www.truckee.com).

#### **VILLAGE AT SQUAW VALLEY ADDS ADDITIONAL MEETING SPACE**

The Village at Squaw Valley, conveniently located at the base of Squaw, is expanding its meeting space to include an additional 1,200 square feet with the addition of the Alpenglom Room, boosting the property's overall meeting space to 5,500 square feet. A number of outdoor venues and restaurants are also available for banquets, receptions and other group functions. Media contact: Pettit Gilwee, Gilwee Public Relations, (530) 583-2138, [pettit@gilweepr.com](mailto:pettit@gilweepr.com). Public contact: North Lake Tahoe, (877) 949-3296, [www.gotahoenorth.com](http://www.gotahoenorth.com).



#### **CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER (CWC) NOW OPEN IN PISMO BEACH; OXNARD NEARS COMPLETION**

The Pismo Beach CWC officially opened November 14 and Oxnard is expected to open its doors early this winter to provide travel information to visitors to the Central Coast. The Pismo Beach CWC resides in the Prime Outlets-Pismo Beach on Highway 101. In the immediate vicinity are four hotels, 11 restaurants, 42 outlet stores and a walkway to downtown Pismo Beach. The Oxnard CWC will be located at the intersection of Highway 101 and the Pacific Coast Highway 1 and will be near restaurants, shopping and accommodations. Oxnard has seven miles of oceanfront beaches and is 11 miles from the Channel Islands. Both locations will be open seven days a week and will include visitor information brochures, regional displays, a state-of-the-art flat panel screen displaying travel opportunities, direct and wireless internet access, restrooms and

parking. Media contact: Jennifer Jasper, California Travel and Tourism Commission, (916) 319-5428, [jjasper@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:jjasper@visitcalifornia.com), [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com). Public contact: Joseph Scott, Prime Outlets-Pismo Beach and Pismo Beach CWC, (805) 773-7924; Janet Sederquist, Oxnard Convention and Visitors Bureau and Oxnard CWC, (805) 385-7545.

#### **GRANDSTAY RESIDENTIAL SUITES OPENS IN OXNARD**

Oxnard recently welcomed its newest hotel property to town—GrandStay Residential Suites located at 2211 East Gonzales Road. GrandStay Residential Suites offers all the comforts of home combined with the services of a grand hotel. Visitors are offered one and two-bedroom studio suites with full kitchens, each completely furnished to meet one's needs while traveling away from home. The property also features a heated outdoor pool, whirlpool, exercise room, guest laundry and outdoor sportcourt with grill area. Media contact: Janis Flippen, Janis Flippen Public Relations, (805) 385-7545, [jflippenpr@adelphia.net](mailto:jflippenpr@adelphia.net). Public contact: GrandStay Residential Suites, (805) 983-6806, [www.grandstay.net](http://www.grandstay.net).

#### **HILTON GARDEN INN MONTEREY**

The Hilton Garden Inn Monterey recently reopened after a complete property renovation including 204 guest rooms, 6,500 square feet of meeting and banquet space and the Pacific Grille restaurant. Guests now enjoy rooms with a private balcony, high-definition flat screen TV, in-room refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker, and work space with free wireless Internet. The hotel also features a new business center plus free guest parking, fitness center, heated outdoor pool and tennis courts. Media contact: Mike Boyer, (831) 333-2045, [mike\\_boyer@hilton.com](mailto:mike_boyer@hilton.com), [www.monterey.stayhgi.com](http://www.monterey.stayhgi.com). Public contact: Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (831) 649-1770 or (888) 221-1010, [www.montereyinfo.org](http://www.montereyinfo.org).

#### **HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL AND SUITES, PASO ROBLES COMPLETES SUITE ADDITION**

The addition of 31 suites to the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, Paso Robles, brings their total room inventory to 91. The new suites are designed to accommodate families and extended stay

cliente, and feature a separate living room, cooking surfaces and the new Simply Smart bedding collection. Also added were 1,100 square feet of conference space. The property is located at 2455 Riverside Avenue in Paso Robles. Media contact: Karen Palmer, (805) 238-6500 x200, [kpalm@atascaderobestwestern.com](mailto:kpalm@atascaderobestwestern.com). Public contact: (805) 238-6500 or (877) HIXPASO (449-7276), [www.hixpaso.com](http://www.hixpaso.com).

#### **LITERARY AND FILM MAP NOW AVAILABLE TO TRAVELERS TO MONTEREY COUNTY**

The Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau recently launched its "Scenes for Your Senses: Literary and Film Map," the ultimate guide to a variety of offbeat treks and inspiration points throughout the county. Roam the paths where John Steinbeck rode his boyhood pony, hike to one of Henry Miller's favorite coves, meditate on the might stones of Robinson Jeffers' hand-built home, or track down the locations of scenes from Basic Instinct, Play Misty for Me, or National Velvet. The guide traverses verdant landscapes in the Salinas Valley, Carmel, Monterey, Pebble Beach and Big Sur, linking the dots for a day or week, combing the ocean and inland itineraries for a well-versed stay. The adventure includes a short list of Hot Stops to punctuate the trek and recharge—from local hikes to tasty bites, wineries and picnic spots. Aside from driving, avid cyclists might consider combining a back road biking adventure while hikers can get their fix with a variety of jaunts to stretch their legs along with their minds. The guide also includes a calendar of seasonal film and literary events. Media contact: Shannon Marshall, Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau, (831) 657-6409, [Shannon@mccvb.org](mailto:Shannon@mccvb.org). Public contact: (831) 657-6400, [info@mccvb.org](mailto:info@mccvb.org), [www.montereyinfo.org](http://www.montereyinfo.org).

#### **MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT OFFERS NEW CARMEL VALLEY WINE SHUTTLE**

Leisure and conference guests alike can plan a relaxed journey on the new Carmel Valley Grapevine Express. Shuttles pick up and drop off passengers at convenient points in downtown Monterey (including Monterey Conference Center and Cannery Row), along Carmel Valley Road and in the



Carmel Valley Village, home to several wine tasting rooms and restaurants. The service runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with hourly stops between 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (last trip back to Monterey at 7:30 p.m.). Beginning January 27, 2007, the Grapevine Express will be offered seven days a week. The service makes exploring the sun-drenched Carmel Valley easy and affordable—an all-day, unlimited use pass is just \$4.50 per person (\$2.25 for seniors 65+ and disabled). Media contact: Hunter Harvath, Monterey-Salinas Transit, (831) 393-8129, [hharvath@mst.org](mailto:hharvath@mst.org), [www.mst.org](http://www.mst.org). Public contact: Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau, (831) 649-1770 or (888) 221-1010, [www.montereyinfo.org](http://www.montereyinfo.org).

**NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER  
CELEBRATES THE GRAPES OF WRATH  
AND EXPLORES CALIFORNIA AND  
THE VIETNAM ERA**

The National Steinbeck Center in Salinas will celebrate "The Big Read," an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The center will launch its month-long program February 24–25, 2007, in celebration of The Grapes of Wrath with a Big Read and John Steinbeck Birthday celebration. The February 24 event will feature author Thomas Steinbeck, John Steinbeck's son, and Salinas Mayor Dennis Donahue, entertainment at the Oldtown Salinas Farmer's Market, free museum admission for the tri-county area and dramatic readings from The Grapes of Wrath. From February 24–March 31, 2007, there will be a full calendar of The Grapes of Wrath events including book groups, film, dance and panel discussions. Also at the Steinbeck Center, the landmark exhibition "What's Going On?—California and the Vietnam Era" explores the influence of the Vietnam War on California and runs through February 18, 2007. "What's Going On?" provides a timely examination of the impact of the Vietnam War on California life and culture. Home to numerous defense contractors and military training centers, the state also served as the primary portal for both returning soldiers and Southeast Asian immigrants following the fall of Saigon. As the epicenter of the war's home front, California became a hotbed of social and political movements that spread across

the county, and, ultimately, redefined what it means to be an American. The exhibition includes historical artifacts, photographs, and documents interwoven with oral histories contributed by veterans, activists, and former refugees. Media contact: Amanda Holder, National Steinbeck Center, (831) 775-4725, [aholder@steinbeck.org](mailto:aholder@steinbeck.org). Public contact: (831) 775-4721, [info@steinbeck.org](mailto:info@steinbeck.org), [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org).

**PLAZA ART GALLERY  
OPENS IN OXNARD**

Featuring works by individuals as well as thematic shows, the Plaza Art Gallery has opened up in downtown Oxnard located on the historic plaza, adjacent to the Carnegie Art Museum. Housed in an Art Deco building at 329 North 5th Street, the new gallery presents works by both contemporary and modern artists with an emphasis on Latino art. Special exhibitions are offered on a rotating basis. Plaza Art Gallery is open Wednesdays through Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. Media contact: Janis Flippen, Janis Flippen Public Relations, (805) 385-7545, [jflippenpr@adelphia.net](mailto:jflippenpr@adelphia.net). Public contact: Plaza Art Gallery, (805) 486-6947, [www.plazaartgallery.com](http://www.plazaartgallery.com).

**SANTA MARIA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM  
FEATURES SHARKS AND BUGS**

Wide-eyed children stare in wonder as two "swell sharks" puff out their bellies and dart across the new 3,000-gallon shark tank at the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum located in downtown Santa Maria. The museum plans to add more sharks to the permanent exhibit as this 13,000-square-foot facility continues to evolve—it tripled in size just last fall. Located inside a historic art deco building that once housed a Coca-Cola bottling company, it is the only hands-on children's museum in Santa Barbara County. Another emerging installation is the "insect exhibit" featuring butterflies, moths and beetles. The intriguing creatures are housed in cases set against a dramatic wall mural depicting the life cycle of a butterfly as well as a standoff between two beetles. And for a multi-dimensional experience there is also a "climb-on caterpillar" and a hissing cockroach sculpture. Media contact: Malei Weir, Mooncatcher, (805) 239-0020, [mw@mooncatcher.com](mailto:mw@mooncatcher.com),

[www.mooncatcher.com](http://www.mooncatcher.com). Public contact: Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, (805) 928-8414, [www.smvdiscoverymuseum.org](http://www.smvdiscoverymuseum.org).

**WILDLING ART MUSEUM IN LOS OLIVOS  
EXHIBITS "PAINTERS OF THE DESERT"**

Works by five of the most recognized and important early desert painters will be on display January 17 through March 25, 2007 at the Wildling Art Museum's "Painters of the Desert: The Arid West." The artists featured are Conrad Buff, Maynard Dixon, Clyde Forsythe, Fernand Lungren and James Swinnerton. The paintings in this exhibition date mostly from the first half of the twentieth century, although Fernand Lungren was commissioned to paint by the Santa Fe Railway as early as 1893. All of these artists shared their love for the desert, and put on canvas the beauty of a wilderness most people never knew existed. Media contact: Holly Cline, Wildling Art Museum, (805) 688-1082, [holly@wildlingmuseum.org](mailto:holly@wildlingmuseum.org). Public contact: (805) 688-1082, [www.wildlingmuseum.org](http://www.wildlingmuseum.org).



**225 SPECIAL  
OFFERS FOR  
225 YEARS**

Join in the birthday fun—from special offers to Web activities—as

LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau celebrates Los Angeles' 225th anniversary. LA INC.'s Web site features 225 special offers and discounts to restaurants, retailers, activities and services throughout the region. In addition, find lots of information about L.A.'s 225 years, including movie locations you'll recognize from the big screen and tunes you can sing while cruising the city's scenic streets. Media contact: Carol Martinez, LA INC. The Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau, (213) 236-2357, [cmartinez@lainc.us](mailto:cmartinez@lainc.us). Public contact: (213) 624-7300, [www.seemyla.com](http://www.seemyla.com).

**BROAD ART CENTER OPENS AT UCLA**

UCLA practically defines Los Angeles. As an excellent source of fine art, digital arts, performing arts and other cultural activity, it is no wonder students and visitors alike crowd the campus daily. The new Eli and Edythe Broad Art Center, will keep people



coming for generations. In the plaza of the Broad Art Center, you'll find a monumental sculpture entitled "T.E.U.C.L.A." Created by world-renowned sculptor Richard Serra, the sculpture is meant to inspire the creative spirit in us all. The new venue will host an ongoing series of exhibitions, lectures, demonstrations and workshops, and is open to the public free of charge. Media contact: Carolyn Campbell, Broad Art Center, (310) 825-6540, [ccampbel@arts.ucla.edu](mailto:ccampbel@arts.ucla.edu). Public contact: (310) 825-0557, [www.art.ucla.edu](http://www.art.ucla.edu).

#### **GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY REOPENS**

LA's landmark Griffith Observatory celebrates its long anticipated reopening. After a glorious \$93 million renovation, the expanded facility is now welcoming visitors to one of the city's most prized attractions, offering arguably the most stunning views of the city. The facility, built in 1935, has been closed since January 2002 for its restoration. The Observatory now features 60 exhibits, including a mural depicting the largest astronomical image called "The Big Picture." There is also a display of the planets—including Pluto, a new 200-seat theater and a Wolfgang Puck "Café at the End of the Universe." Additionally, the acclaimed planetarium boasts a brand new Zeiss projector and 300 luxurious seats padded and equipped to recline to your comfort. It is important to take note of the fact that the parking lot has been shut down and patrons have to secure entry through a timed ticket system, accessing the Observatory via shuttle buses that depart from Hollywood & Highland and Los Angeles Zoo parking lots. The shuttle costs \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages five to 12. Admission to the Observatory is free for those who walk or cycle to the site (reservations are still required). Media contact: The Griffith Observatory, Jane Kolb, (213) 928-9294, [jane.kolb@lacity.org](mailto:jane.kolb@lacity.org). Public contact: (213) 473-0800 or (888) 695-0888, [www.griffithobservatory.org](http://www.griffithobservatory.org).

#### **HOLLY'S WEST IS NEW SANTA MONICA HOT SPOT**

Holly's West, sister club to Hollywood hot spot, Holly's, brings a fresh, new nightclub experience to Santa Monica. "We wanted to bring a taste of Hollywood to the Westside, minus the attitude," said Rick Calamaro,

veteran nightclub impresario. Small by club standards, Holly's West is intimate, sleek and elegant with a lounge feeling. A late night snack menu is offered while a rotation of DJs spin sounds as varied as Holly's West electronica and dancy rock. Steve Aoki is a frequent guest and other celebrities including Charlie Sheen and Hugh Hefner have paid visits. Media contact: Ro Kohli, Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, (310) 319-6263, [rkohli@santamonica.com](mailto:rkohli@santamonica.com). Public contact: (310) 828-3304, [www.lincolNSTEAKHOUSE.com](http://www.lincolNSTEAKHOUSE.com).

#### **HOLLYWOOD WAX MUSEUM CELEBRATES 40TH BIRTHDAY AND NEW RENOVATION**

In September, the Hollywood Wax Museum will celebrate its 40th birthday and the completion of a multimillion dollar renovation that has substantially upgraded its exhibits and added 60 new figures to the collection. The museum remains open during renovations. Visitors will now have the opportunity to feel part of a red carpet event walking through an exhibit of A-list movie stars like Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie dressed in formal designer gowns. Halle Berry is depicted in the dress she wore when she won the Academy Award. The museum's horror exhibit was completely demolished and rebuilt from scratch, and the science-fiction area has added exhibits from "Men in Black," "The Matrix" and "Star Wars." A separate room now is an exhibit of all of Hollywood's landmark buildings, like the Capitol Building and Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The museum has also added a small events room complete with bar and deeJay booth. Media and public contact: Tej Sundher, The Hollywood Wax Museum, (323) 462-5991 x11, [tej@hollywoodwax.com](mailto:tej@hollywoodwax.com), [www.hollywoodwax.com](http://www.hollywoodwax.com).

#### **HYATT REGENCY CENTURY PLAZA COMPLETES \$22 MILLION RENOVATION**

As the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza hotel celebrates its 40th ruby anniversary as Los Angeles' preeminent urban resort, it proudly boasts the completion of a significant \$22 million renovation. Every guestroom and suite is wholly refurbished, the famous Lobby Court serves host to after work events and live music, and a new restaurant-bar with outside patio and street access has

been added. A one-of-a-kind, ground level, VIP lounge and a Starbucks coffee bar and international newsstand complements the hotel's long list of services and amenities. Equinox Fitness Club + Spa will house the space formerly known as Spa Mystique. The \$4.5 million renovation began September 5 and the club is set to open February 2007. Additionally, the hotel debuts its newly constructed Plaza Pavilion, adding 9,100 square feet of function space to the hotel's expansive portfolio. The Plaza Pavilion's distinct design provides an elegant, quiet setting that is ideal for executive retreats, parties and weddings for up to 500 guests. Media contact: Erika Garcia-Lavyne, Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, (310) 551-3299, [elavyne@hyatt.com](mailto:elavyne@hyatt.com). Public contact: (310) 228-1234, [www.hyatt.com](http://www.hyatt.com).

#### **MOCA DISPLAYS "SKIN + BONES: PARALLEL PRACTICES IN FASHION AND ARCHITECTURE"**

In recent years, intricate and influential cross-connections between architecture and fashion have become increasingly apparent. "Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture" at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Grand Avenue through March 5, 2007, examines the many visual and conceptual principles that unite fashion and architecture. Both disciplines are essentially based on the human body and on perceptions of space, volume, and movement. Each functions as shelter or wrapping for the body—a mediating layer between the skin and the environment—and each can express personal, social and cultural identity. The exhibition focuses on the period from 1980 to the present and includes 45 architects and fashion designers from the United States, Europe and Japan. The work is presented thematically in groupings that address shelter, identity, parallel stylistic tendencies, creative process, and such tectonic strategies as folding, draping, wrapping, pleating, and weaving. Fashion designers include Hussein Chalayan, Comme des Garçons, Alexander McQueen, Narciso Rodriguez, Ralph Rucci, among others. Architects include Shigeru Ban, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Foreign Office Architects, Zaha Hadid, Herzog & de Meuron, among others. Media contact: Rebecca Taylor, MOCA, (213) 621-1749, [rtaylor@moca.org](mailto:rtaylor@moca.org). Public contact: (213) 626-6222, [www.moca.org](http://www.moca.org).

**WICKED RETURNS**

The smash hit musical and highest grossing show on Broadway, *Wicked*, will be returning to Los Angeles in February 2007. The untold story of the witches of Oz will once again be performed at the historic Pantages Theatre. Producer, Marc Platt, calls the upcoming Los Angeles production, "a very exciting homecoming." According to *The Washington Post*, *Wicked* is "a breathtaking success story, of magnitude the theater has not witnessed since the peak years of *The Phantom of the Opera*." Media contact: Davidson & Choy Publicity, Tim Choy, (323) 954-7510, [t.choy@dcpublicity.com](mailto:t.choy@dcpublicity.com), [www.dcpublicity.com](http://www.dcpublicity.com). Public contact: Broadway/L.A., (866) 755-2929 or for groups of 15 or more (866) 755-3075, [www.broadwayla.org](http://www.broadwayla.org).

**ANAHEIM ARSENAL COMES TO ORANGE COUNTY**

The National Basketball Association (NBA) Development

League expands to Anaheim for the 2006–2007 season. Orange County's first franchise linked to the NBA, the Anaheim Arsenal is affiliated with the Los Angeles Clippers organization and based at the Arena at the Anaheim Convention Center. Anaheim's newest home team began a 50-game season, featuring 24 home games. The games begin in late November and continue until April. Media Contact: Garrett Anderson, Anaheim Arsenal, (714) 635-2255, [ganderson@anaheimarsenal.com](mailto:ganderson@anaheimarsenal.com). Public Contact: (714) 635-2255, [www.anaheimarsenal.com](http://www.anaheimarsenal.com).

**BOWERS MUSEUM TO OPEN NEW WING**

Bowers Museum's new 30,000-square-foot Dorothy and Donald Kennedy Wing expansion is due to open to the general public on February 18, 2007. It will include the new Anderson-Hsu-Tu Gallery to augment the existing special exhibitions gallery that features treasures from the British Museum. The new East West Bank Gallery will focus on 5,000 years of Chinese history. Two debut exhibits in each of the

new galleries are "Ansel Adams: Classic Images" and "Treasures from Shanghai: 5000 Years of Chinese Art and Culture." The addition also includes a 300-seat, state-of-the-art auditorium and a spectacular central atrium that will be used as a meeting place or, in the evenings, will be an ideal indoor alternative to the museum's Margaret and Cleo Key Courtyard for dinners seating up to 440 guests. Media contact: Diane Pinnick, Bowers Museum, (714) 567-3642, [dpinnick@bowers.org](mailto:dpinnick@bowers.org), [www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org). Public contact: Anaheim/OC Visitor & Convention Bureau, (714) 765-8888, [www.anaheimoc.org](http://www.anaheimoc.org).

**DISNEYLAND RESORT ROCKS WITH NEW RIDE SOUNDTRACKS**

Beginning January 3, 2007, Space Mountain at Disneyland park and California Screamin' at Disney's California Adventure park are getting new tunes with the new Rockin' Both Parks event. Thanks to new soundtracks and technology, both attractions will be temporarily transformed into unique rock 'n' roll experiences. New music will be custom choreographed to heighten the experience of every twist and turn. Rockin' Space Mountain will launch guests through an out-of-this-world rock adventure, while Rockin' California Screamin' will move and groove guests through their ride along Paradise Pier. Rockin' Both Parks is part of the Year of a Million Dreams, the latest celebration at the Disneyland Resort. During the Year of a Million Dreams, Disney Cast Members award a million magical dreams. From an overnight stay inside the new Mickey Mouse Penthouse to a "Dream Fastpass," dreams big and small come true during this first-of-its-kind celebration. Additionally, special entertainment and programs at the resort accommodate the desires and wishes of would-be Disney princesses, pirates, adventurers and space explorers. Guests can customize their visit to a Disneyland Resort theme park to pursue the "Dream Track" of their choice with on-line planning tools and in-park technology to help them become the hero or princess they've always dreamed of being. Media contact: Betsy Sanchez, Disneyland Resort, (714) 284-6386, [betsy.e.sanchez@disney.com](mailto:betsy.e.sanchez@disney.com). Public contact: (714) 781-4565, [www.disneyland.com](http://www.disneyland.com).

**EMBASSY SUITES CONDUCTING \$1.1 MILLION RENOVATION**

In October 2006, Embassy Suites Hotel—Brea began a \$1.1 million renovation to its commercial space, an upgraded fitness center, and the addition of a business center, breakfast service area and a self-service marketplace. Renovations are scheduled for completion in mid-December. Additionally, the hotel is renovating all 228 guest suites, from January to May 2007, to reflect the exotic, Egyptian theme at an estimated cost of over \$4.5 million. Media contact: Regina Samy, Embassy Suites Hotel—Brea, (714) 510-2999, [RSamy@WCGHotels.com](mailto:RSamy@WCGHotels.com). Public contact: (714) 990-6000 or (800) EMBASSY (362-2779), [www.embassysuites.com](http://www.embassysuites.com).

**ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART FEATURES CHUCK CLOSE**

For more than 30 years, Chuck Close has been revered as one of America's foremost artists. Highly regarded for his illusionistic paintings, Close also has long been involved with the varied forms and processes of printmaking, an aspect of his work that is inseparable from his other media. "Chuck Close Prints: Process and Collaboration" at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach runs January 28—April 22, 2007, and features 100 works dating from 1972 to 2002, illustrating the artist's range of invention in etching, aquatint, lithography, handmade paper, direct gravure, silkscreen, traditional Japanese woodcut, and reduction linocut. The first comprehensive exploration of what can only be termed a prodigious accomplishment in the field, this stunning exhibition highlights the creative processes and technical collaboration between Close and his master printers, while it explores how the artist has consistently but variously challenged the accepted boundaries of the printmaking tradition. In this union, "Chuck Close Prints" constitutes a remarkable self-portrait of the creative drive, vision and intellect of one of America's most important living artists. Media contact: Kelly Dickson, Orange County Museum of Art, (949) 759-1122 x205, [kdickson@ocma.net](mailto:kdickson@ocma.net). Public contact: Orange County Museum of Art Newport Beach, (949) 759-1122, [www.ocma.net](http://www.ocma.net).



**LA CASA  
DEL ZORRO  
DESERT RESORT  
OFFERS GUIDED  
ECOTOURISM  
HIKES IN 2007**

La Casa del Zorro Desert Resort has introduced guided

hikes to complement its four-wheel drive eco-tourism outings. Both are sanctioned by the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and designed by the park's former staff naturalist, Paul Johnson, a noted author and photographer. Per person tour prices are \$75 for half-day and \$150 for full-day. All tours have a four-person minimum, start and end at the resort, and full-day tours include lunch. The vehicles are new, four-wheel-drive Ford Excursions. The tours are available to resort guests and all others. Located 90 miles northeast of downtown San Diego, the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest state park in the contiguous United States, with more than 600,000 acres of spectacular canyons, badlands, sand dunes, mountains and even streams. The tours offer diversity of experiences in the most beautiful and interesting locations of the park, as well as sites of geological and historical significance. Media contact: John Brice, Brice and Associates, (858) 405-4622, [jbrice@briceandassociates.com](mailto:jbrice@briceandassociates.com). Public contact: La Casa del Zorro Desert Resort, (760) 767-5323 or (800) 824-1884, [www.lacasadelzorro.com](http://www.lacasadelzorro.com).

**DA VINCI EXPERIENCE  
PREMIERES IN DESERT**

For the first time in California, The Da Vinci Experience takes flight at the Palm Springs Air Museum through March 24, 2007. Visitors will be able to experience the dream of flight via 60-plus working replicas of Leonardo Da Vinci's vintage flying, mechanical and military machines. Entering the exhibit, guests will first step into a 15th Century Florentine street scene before advancing to the first of three galleries, composed of transportation, military and mechanical machines. The replicas of Da Vinci's machines are the result of 50 years of construction by a group of Florentine Artisans, who based the pieces on Da Vinci's drawings. Ten of the replicas are full sized, 17 are interactive and five can be individually demonstrated.

Highlights include a Hang Glider, Air Screw (forerunner of the Helicopter), a moveable bridge, spring-powered car, double-hulled boat, and a pulley system. The exhibit is suitable for all ages. Adult and student group rates are available, as well as catering. A gift shop and café will complete the tour. Media contact: Ann Greer, (323) 363-8243, [anngreer@earthlink.net](mailto:anngreer@earthlink.net). Public contact: The Palm Springs Air Museum, (760) 778-6262, [www.PalmSpringsAirMuseum.org](http://www.PalmSpringsAirMuseum.org).

**FAIRFIELD INN, BY MARRIOTT  
ANNOUNCES RENOVATIONS**

The Fairfield Inn, by Marriott in Palm Desert announces the completion of a \$1.5 million renovation. All 112 guest rooms, including five suites have been completely renovated and refurbished. Guests can wake up to a complimentary breakfast of fresh belgian waffles and hot breakfast sandwiches each morning. Also added for travelers is a mini market for those last minute items. Business travelers will find the business center featuring free high-speed internet access, and free fax and copy service among the new conveniences. The Fairfield Inn, by Marriott also features a large outdoor pool, whirlpool and fitness room. The hotel is in walking distance to movie theatres, restaurants, theatre and shopping. Media and public contact: Carmen Van Krieken, Fairfield Inn, by Marriott, (760) 341-9100 x170, <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/CTDFI>.

**PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAMWAY  
CONTRACTS WITH ARAMARK**

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway recently announced it has signed a contract with ARAMARK Sports and Entertainment Services, a division of ARAMARK, to provide food and beverage services. ARAMARK will operate the Peaks Fine Dining Restaurant, Pines Cafeteria-Style Restaurant, Lookout Lounge as well as provide catering for banquets and special events. ARAMARK chefs have created a menu featuring a variety of fresh vegetables and greens from the Coachella Valley, dry aged meats and poultry along with fresh breads from local bakeries. Additional selections will include market fresh seafood and pastas. Media contact: Lena Zimmerschied, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, (760) 325-1449,

[lenaz@pstramway.com](mailto:lenaz@pstramway.com). Public contact: Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, (760) 325-1391, [pstramway@pstramway.com](mailto:pstramway@pstramway.com), [www.pstramway.com](http://www.pstramway.com) or ARAMARK, [www.aramark.com](http://www.aramark.com).



**BIG BEAR  
GOES  
WIRELESS**

The Big Bear Visitor Center, located in the Big Bear Village, is now equipped

for wireless Internet access. Big Bear Lake Resort Association installed the wireless equipment as a free convenience for Big Bear visitors who travel with laptops. The wireless system can handle up to 100 concurrent connections at one time. The free wireless service is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Big Bear Visitor Center is located at 630 Bartlett Road in Big Bear Lake. Media contact: Dan McKernan, Big Bear Lake Resort Association, (909) 866-6190 x235, [dmckernan@bigbear.com](mailto:dmckernan@bigbear.com). Public contact: (909) 866-6190 or (800) 4-BIG-BEAR (800-424-4232), [www.bigbear.com](http://www.bigbear.com).

**CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER  
(CWC) IN SAN BERNARDINO  
SET TO OPEN EARLY WINTER**

The San Bernardino CWC to open early this winter in the Inland Empire will be located on San Bernardino's Hospitality Lane, north of the San Bernardino I-10 freeway and the 215 freeway interchange. This CWC is close to over 20 restaurants and seven hotels/motels. The CWC will be open seven days a week and will include visitor information brochures, regional displays, a state-of-the-art flat panel screen displaying travel opportunities, direct and wireless internet access, restrooms and plenty of parking. Media contact: Jennifer Jasper, California Travel and Tourism Commission, (916) 319-5428, [jjasper@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:jjasper@visitcalifornia.com), [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com). Public contact: Mary Casanova-Poland, San Bernardino Convention and Visitors Bureau and San Bernardino CWC, (800) 867-8366.

### **COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ONTARIO-RANCHO CUCAMONGA**

Designed by business travelers, the Courtyard by Marriott Ontario-Rancho Cucamonga offers 117 guest rooms, including four suites. Courtyard by Marriott proudly offers 100% non-smoking rooms with balcony rooms available. The spacious rooms feature Marriott's new luxury bedding with pillow-top mattresses, crisp white linens and extra pillows. In addition, rooms are equipped with a refrigerator, coffee maker, iron/board and hair dryer. Property amenities include wireless internet, indoor heated pool and spa, lush outdoor courtyard and fitness center. A hearty breakfast buffet and The Market provide a variety of food and beverage options for guest enjoyment. The hotel also offers meeting space for up to 40 people, with full catering and AV available. Media contact: Nicole Fedorchek, Courtyard by Marriott, (909) 481-6476, [cy.ontcy.gm@marriott.com](mailto:cy.ontcy.gm@marriott.com). Public contact: (909) 481-6476, [www.marriott.com/ontcy](http://www.marriott.com/ontcy).

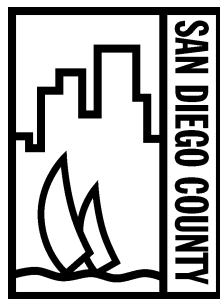
### **LAKE ARROWHEAD RESORT TRANSFORMED WITH \$14 MILLION RENOVATIONS**

Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa is nearing completion of its \$15 million renovation and redesign. The property's dramatic transformation includes redesigned guestrooms, meeting and public spaces, a re-imagined restaurant and bar, and a new spa. The resort has remained open during construction and is scheduled to be fully completed by January 2007. Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa features 173 guest rooms, including 10 luxurious suites and one Presidential Suite, all featuring views of either beautiful Lake Arrowhead or the surrounding alpine mountains. The new restaurant BIN189 highlights the best of "modern California cuisine," and features fresh local foods in addition to an extensive wine list. The sleek and inviting bar allows for an unrestricted view of the lake. Diners may also reserve a table in the private wine cellar, Magnum, an enclosed dining area seating up to 24. The new spa will offer a comprehensive menu of spa treatments, including massages and body treatments in 10 treatment rooms and one VIP couple's suite with a separate entrance for complete privacy and exclusivity. Also opening in late January is the state-of-the-art executive boardroom suite, Pinnacle. It will include

meeting space for up to 16, in addition to a private wet bar, lounge, separate business center and restroom facilities. Media contact: Amy Reese, Victoria King Public Relations, (310) 207-5175, [amy@vkpr.com](mailto:amy@vkpr.com). Public contact: Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa, (909) 336-1511 or (800) 800-6792, [www.laresort.com](http://www.laresort.com).

### **WIENS FAMILY CELLARS NEW TO THE TEMECULA VALLEY**

Located among the rolling hills and plateaus of the Temecula Valley Wine Country, Wiens Family Cellars produces a broad range of California, gold-medal winning, estate-farmed varietal wines. The Wiens family is building a successful, family-owned and farmed wine business with a warm wine tasting room, a functioning Barrel Room that will also act as an intimate meeting and dinner venue, an outdoor amphitheatre and an elegant event pavilion with seating capacities of up to 200. The Wiens believe that making wine is a family thing and have made it their goal to create a place where people feel right at home—part of the family. Media and Public Contact: Suzanne Schaffner, Wiens Family Cellars, (951) 694-9892, [info@wienscellars.com](mailto:info@wienscellars.com).



### **500 WEST IS SAN DIEGO'S FIRST HYBRID HOTEL**

An 80-year-old concrete building in the heart of San Diego blended with the chic simplicity of modern European-style

lodging is what guests will encounter at 500 West Hotel, San Diego's foremost and funkiest hybrid hotel that seeks to redefine affordable urban travel accommodations. Reinvigorated after a \$9+ million renovation and facelift, the former Armed Services YMCA is now a creative and comfortable hotel that is lavish yet practical, hip yet historical and fun yet functional. The hotel's redesigned interior completely transformed its dated lobby and 208 guestrooms into comfortable and contemporary spaces. The guestrooms were updated with a fresh, organic color palette and feature Michael Graves-designed custom furnishings and fixtures, platform beds, 13" flat-screen televisions, and huge windows, many that lookout over the city's stunning skyline and

ocean harbor. Other property highlights include free wireless Internet in the lobby, 24-hour on-site laundry facilities, a gourmet Viking display kitchen and living room lounge with big screen television, a restored outdoor courtyard and new lobby lounge. Media contact: Aaron Heier, Heier Communications, (619) 297-0009, [aaron@heiercommunications.com](mailto:aaron@heiercommunications.com). Public contact: 500 West, (619) 234-5252 or (866) 500-SLEEP (75337), [www.500westhotel.com](http://www.500westhotel.com).

### **HILTON MISSION VALLEY SAN DIEGO ANNOUNCES EXTENSIVE REMODEL**

The Hilton Mission Valley San Diego recently completed an \$11-million renovation including an extensive remodeling of the property's 349 guest rooms, lobby and concierge area, meeting spaces, executive lounge, pool area, fitness facilities, hotel façade, and landscaping. All 349 guest rooms now feature modernized architecture, state-of-the-art Suite Dreams bed sets, desks, and adjustable task lighting. The space that once housed the Monterey Whaling Company is now home to a new, 3,000 square-foot high-tech meeting center, featuring three customizable rooms. The meeting spaces boast sophisticated dropdown screens, LCD projectors, sound systems, DVD/CD/VCR, wireless high-speed Internet, and ergonomic chairs. The hotel's new restaurant, Stish, features steak and seafood fare in a hip and urban dining room. Media contact: Sarah Znerold, (760) 943-2333, [sarah@szpr.com](mailto:sarah@szpr.com). Public contact: Hilton Mission Valley San Diego, (619) 543-9000, [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com).

### **HORNBLOWER CRUISE & EVENTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR LARGE GROUP CHARTER**

Hornblower Cruises & Event's new "convention cruiser," Inspiration Hornblower, is now available for charter. The 222-foot vessel can accommodate groups of up to 1,000 guests and features two large, enclosed ballroom-like decks with enormous bay view windows, comfortable seating and a 12,000 square-foot sun deck. Media contact: Kathryn Wells, Hornblower Cruises & Events, (619) 725-8835, [kwells@hornblower.com](mailto:kwells@hornblower.com). Public contact: (619) 686-8715, [www.hornblower.com](http://www.hornblower.com).

### **LITTLE HOTEL, GARDEN TERRACES HISTORICAL RESTORATION REVIVES PROPERTIES**

The \$4 million historical restoration project of the eight-suite Little Hotel by the Sea and the 10-suite Garden Terraces, both adjacent to The Grande Colonial hotel in La Jolla, is slated to be completed in February 2007. Built in 1924, the Little Hotel by the Sea will include restoration of the building's rooftop loft and deck, and restoration of the 1929 Baker & Son's elevator. The rooftop area will be used as a guest library and sitting room, as well as an outdoor terrace and dining area providing panoramic views of the Pacific. The Baker & Sons elevator, which will be restored to full operation, is a four-passenger, solid-mahogany elevator housed in a steel tower erected from solid rock beneath the hotel. All units will have kitchens and many will have fireplaces. Upon completion, the Little Hotel by the Sea and Garden Terraces will maintain their individual names, but will become part of The Grande Colonial hotel. The two properties will take on an interior, designed by Carmel-based Design Group Carmel, that represents La Jolla's seacoast village residential style. Media contact: Leslie Araiza, (858) 964-5406, [leslie@araizamarketing.com](mailto:leslie@araizamarketing.com). Public contact: The Grande Colonial, (858) 454-2181, [www.thegrandecolonial.com](http://www.thegrandecolonial.com).

### **MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SAN DIEGO (MCASD) TO OPEN DOWNTOWN EXPANSION**

Opening January 21, 2007, the MCASD's downtown expansion will more than double the museum's current downtown exhibition space and will enhance the museum's ability to serve a larger and more diverse public by creating a significant art museum in the heart of downtown San Diego. The 'baggage building' of the active Santa Fe Depot, a Nationally Registered Historic Landmark located across the street from the existing MCASD downtown galleries, has been fully renovated as gallery space while preserving its Spanish Mission-Colonial Revival-style exterior. Built for the Panama-California Exposition in 1915, the building will provide more than 10,500 square feet of new exhibition space for contemporary art; its lofty interiors will provide an ideal space to display large-scale sculptures and installation art. The brand-new modernist, three-story David C. Copley building,

being constructed next door, will feature elegant channel glass, aluminum curtain wall windows, public education facilities, a 130-seat lecture hall, and terrace with harbor views. MCASD has commissioned sculptor Richard Serra and installation artist Jenny Holzer to create new site-specific pieces for the downtown expansion. Denise Montgomery, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, (858) 454-3541 x116, [dmontgomery@mcasd.org](mailto:dmontgomery@mcasd.org). Public contact: (858) 454-3541, [www.mcasd.org](http://www.mcasd.org).

### **MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO HISTORY BY CELL PHONE**

Now available at the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park, visitors can enjoy an audio tour of the museum using their own cell phone. With the Guide by Cell program, visitors dial a local number to hear various experts talk about objects on display in the museum, as well as offer unique stories of San Diego's history. In the first completed gallery of an evolving core exhibition, "Place of Promise: Stories of San Diego," visitors can literally walk on San Diego. A 30x30 foot map of the county extends from wall to wall across the floor; also featured are two large 1930s murals of the region, a San Diego streetcar from 1910 and various interactive components. As the rest of the exhibition is developed over the next two years, the stories of San Diego will be interpreted through images and artifacts from the San Diego Historical Society's collection, most of which will come from the San Diego Historical Society's extensive collection. Media contact: Michelle Swinney, Museum of San Diego History, (619) 232-6203 x109, [swinney@sandiegohistory.org](mailto:swinney@sandiegohistory.org). Public contact: (619) 232-6203, [www.sandiegohistory.org](http://www.sandiegohistory.org).

### **RANCHO BERNARDO INN TO BENEFIT FROM \$20 MILLION RENOVATION**

In early 2007, Rancho Bernardo Inn, located approximately 30 minutes from downtown San Diego, will unveil \$20 million in additions and renovations. These improvements will include a new state-of-the-art, 27,000 square-foot conference center, featuring a ballroom that can accommodate up to 1,000 guests, a 3,000 square-foot lawn with a trellis-covered patio, on-site client office space, and wireless Internet service. The Inn will

also unveil a new lap pool and hydro-spa, joining the Inn's existing two pools (one which is adults-only). The remodeled spa, complete with outdoor gardens and retreat areas, will include a new menu of distinctive services. The property's 287 luxurious rooms will also be enhanced with platform beds, new couches and chairs, upgraded linens, flat screen televisions, and new furniture for their private patios and balconies. Media contact: Tracee Cahill, (858) 385-8795, [tcahill@jcsresorts.com](mailto:tcahill@jcsresorts.com). Public contact: Rancho Bernardo Inn, (858) 675-8500 or (800) 770-7329, [www.ranchobernardoinn.com](http://www.ranchobernardoinn.com).

### **SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART EXHIBITS ANNIE LEIBOVITZ PHOTOGRAPHY**

The San Diego Museum of Art will be the first West Coast venue for a major international touring exhibition of the contemporary photographer Annie Leibovitz. From February 10–April 22, 2007, "Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990–2005" will feature approximately 200 photographs by Leibovitz, including portraits of public figures that she took while on assignment, as well as personal photographs of her family and close friends. The exhibit features portraits of Colin Powell, Demi Moore, Brad Pitt and Bill Clinton. Media contact: Chris Zook, San Diego Museum of Art, (619) 696-1946, [cszook@sdmart.org](mailto:cszook@sdmart.org). Public contact: (619) 232-7931, [www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org).

### **SAN DIEGO ZOO'S WILD ANIMAL PARK WELCOMES BABY ANIMALS**

Two litters of African lion cubs were born this summer 2006, and one African elephant was born on September 11, 2006, at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park. The lions cubs are on exhibit with their respective mothers and their father, Izu, at Lion Camp, the Wild Animal Park's newest naturalistic exhibit. Khosi, the female elephant calf, and her mother, Umngani, can be seen daily with the rest of the park's nine-member elephant herd, which was rescued from culling in Africa in 2003. The elephant herd can be seen from the park's African Elephant overlook, the Wgasa Bushline Railway and on the park's Web site. Media contact: Yadira Galindo, Zoological Society of San Diego, (619) 685-3291, [ygalindo@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:ygalindo@sandiegozoo.org). Public contact: (760) 747-8702, [www.wildanimalpark.org](http://www.wildanimalpark.org).

### **SOFIA HOTEL OPENS COMBINING HISTORY WITH MODERN STYLE**

After a \$16-million renovation, the historic Pickwick Hotel in downtown San Diego will reopen in December 2006 as the modern and stylish Sofia Hotel. Built in 1926, the 212-room hotel will retain its gothic revival architecture while transforming its interior using a relaxing and nature-inspired design theme, which includes a soothing color palette, fossil sculptures and botanical art throughout the property. The hotel will offer spa amenities, including a 24-hour fitness center with an on-call personal trainer and a 24-hour yoga studio featuring on-call instruction as well as auto and video programming, surround sound, mats and props. The Sofia will also provide a business center, on-site valet parking and concierge service—all available 24 hours a day. Guests will enjoy room amenities like high-speed Internet; 20-inch flat screen televisions; refreshment centers with a coffeemaker, mini-fridge and microwave; and a selection of in-room spa services on request. The hotel's VIP suites will offer guests a soaking tub with jets, fine art, decorative wallpaper, and plumped cushions and accessories. Media contact: Maria Amor, Formula PR, (619) 234-0345, [amor@formulapr.com](mailto:amor@formulapr.com). Public contact: The Sofia Hotel, (619) 234-9200, [www.thesofiahotel.com](http://www.thesofiahotel.com).

### **SURFER BEACH HOTEL COMBINES STYLE, LUXURY AND CONVENIENCE**

In the heart of San Diego's vibrant and popular Pacific Beach community lives one of Southern California's best-kept coastal vacation secrets—the Surfer Beach Hotel. The Surfer Beach Hotel oozes 1950's "Art Deco chic" with a tastefully subtle hint of contemporary style, class and comfort where the beach landscape is literally its backyard. Originally built in 1964, this recently refurbished and revitalized retro-centric hotel offers a truly one-of-a-kind vacation experience that not only embodies, but also celebrates all that defines quintessential San Diego beach culture and lifestyle. Maximizing the unobstructed ocean views and prime beachfront location, the Surfer's four floors of 52 completely redesigned rooms are situated around its Melrose Place-like private courtyard pool deck that, guarded by a glass-front barricade, opens directly onto Pacific Beach's bustling Oceanfront Walk. Unique to the Surfer is

its second-floor, detached penthouse-style Surf & Sunset Suite. This 1,400 sq. ft., two-bedroom, fully furnished suite gives families and larger groups a perfect venue for sharing quality vacation time together, under one roof. Media contact: Aaron Heier, Heier Communications, (619) 297-0009, [aaron@heiercommunications.com](mailto:aaron@heiercommunications.com). Public contact: The Surfer Beach Hotel, (858) 483-7070 or (800) 787-3373, [www.surferbeachhotel.com](http://www.surferbeachhotel.com).

### **WITHERBY OFFERS NEW EVENT SPACE IN SAN DIEGO**

The Witherby, a 7,400 square-foot event loft space brought to San Diego by the same restaurant group as the owners of Side Bar and Stingaree, recently opened to combine timeless tradition and elegance with a fresh, modern perspective. Located in a historic building on the corner of Sixth and Market streets in downtown San Diego, and above the popular Side Bar, The Witherby will feature a stylish backdrop of muted espresso, cream, dark browns and gold tones mixed with textured platinum wallpaper and rich leather-like, black maple paneling. The neutral décor allows hosts to customize each event in their own style and taste. Guests may choose between two grand ballrooms and one formal foyer each for separate experiences or may combine the entire venue for a stylish and sophisticated celebration. The primary event space includes a main bar and several rooms that configure into a variety of seating plans that can accommodate up to 600 guests. The Witherby also offers state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, valet parking and an interactive Web site where clients can create their own personalized invitations. Media contact: Jamie Lynn Sigler, (858) 395-5264, [Jamie@jpublicrelations.com](mailto:Jamie@jpublicrelations.com). Public contact: The Witherby, (619) 531-0005, [www.thewitherby.com](http://www.thewitherby.com).



### **ANAHEIM MARRIOTT BOASTS EXPANSION AND RENOVATIONS FOR 2007**

In April 2007, the Anaheim Marriott will complete the new \$24 million Platinum Ballroom expansion project featuring over 27,000 square feet of additional meeting space. In the fall of 2007, the hotel will have completed a \$14

million renovation of all guest rooms, suites, and corridors, along with an expanded concierge lounge. The Anaheim Marriott is located in the heart of the exciting Anaheim Resort—close to local attractions and theme parks, as well as two blocks from the \$600 million GardenWalk restaurant and entertainment complex opening in November 2007. Media Contact: Tim Price, Anaheim Marriott, (714) 750-8000, [tim.price@marriott.com](mailto:tim.price@marriott.com). Public Contact: (714) 750-8000 or (800) 228-9290, [www.marriott.com/laxah](http://www.marriott.com/laxah).

### **HEARST CASTLE VISITOR CENTER TO UNDERGO REMODEL**

The Hearst Castle® Visitor Center will begin a remodel to upgrade and improve the existing visitor services at Hearst Castle®. The current Visitor Center opened approximately 20 years ago and the upgrades planned for the remodel will make for a higher quality visitor experience that is more relevant to Hearst Castle®. The Visitor Center will remain open during this project. As the food and gift concessionaire, the ARAMARK Corporation is funding this project at a cost of \$3.9 million. California State Parks will oversee the scope of the work and overall goal of the project to begin the visitor experience to Hearst Castle® at the Visitor Center. Highlights planned for the project include construction of a new entrance to the Visitor Center featuring Hearst Castle® architecture, revitalized Gift and Museum Shops including a library/theater area, new Outdoor Patio Garden Shop featuring live plants from the Castle and garden art, and a new Mediterranean courtyard with patio seating. The project should be completed for the start of the summer 2007 visitor season. Although during the construction there will be some minor inconveniences, food and gift concessions will remain open to the public. Media contact: Nicholas Franco, California State Parks, Hearst Castle, (805) 927-2065, [nfranco@hearthcastle.com](mailto:nfranco@hearthcastle.com). Public contact: Hearst Castle, (805) 927-2020, [www.hearthcastle.com](http://www.hearthcastle.com).

### **HOTEL MÉNAGE IS ANAHEIM'S PREMIER BOUTIQUE HOTEL**

Anaheim welcomes the Hotel Ménage onto the scene as the city's premier boutique hotel and resort. The 240-room hotel will complete a total renovation of the public space of the former Holiday Inn in

December 2006, including the addition of several new elements: the award-winning k'ya restaurant; a hip, candle-lit lobby bar and lounge; the Mist pool bar; the Red Room—a business center with a lush twist; and seven uniquely themed breakout rooms. There is 4,700 square feet of flexible indoor conference and special event space, as well as an outdoor pool deck venue with more than an acre of space set to also host a nightclub on Friday and Saturday evenings. The grand opening is planned for April/May 2007 once the guest room renovation is complete. Media and public contact: Marlena Nelson, (714) 758-0900 x7629, [marlena@casaresortsinc.com](mailto:marlena@casaresortsinc.com).

#### **MONTEREY HOTEL BEGINS MAJOR EXPANSION EFFORTS**

Moonstone Hotel Properties recently broke ground on an \$8 million expansion project on The Monterey Hotel, a historic property built in 1904 in the heart of downtown Monterey. A viable move to add needed amenities while preserving the hotel's early 20th century detail and charm, this renovation adds 24 new guest rooms (eight per floor; all with private fireplaces) to the current 45 rooms, as well as an additional 454 square feet of meeting space, which will seat approximately 40 people. Other changes include extra underground valet parking; a new elevator system; and a 1,500 square-foot fitness facility, including a spa, treatment rooms and an exercise room. The interior design will remain consistent with the hotel's existing Victorian theme, while adding an indoor garden conservatory on the lower level near the spa entrance. When expansion is complete in the spring of 2008, the hotel's main entrance will have been moved from busy Alvarado Street to the more spacious Calle Principal. The project also includes space for three new retail shops adjoining the hotel along Alvarado Street, and a new pedestrian walkway linking Alvarado Street to nearby Calle Principal. Media contact: Malei Weir, Mooncatcher, (805) 239-0020, [mw@mooncatcher.com](mailto:mw@mooncatcher.com), [www.mooncatcher.com](http://www.mooncatcher.com). Public contact: The Monterey Hotel, (831) 375-3184 or (800) 727-0960, [sergioj@moonstonehotels.com](mailto:sergioj@moonstonehotels.com), [www.moonstonehotels.com](http://www.moonstonehotels.com).

#### **MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM EXHIBITS "WILD ABOUT OTTERS"**

"Wild About Otters," a new special exhibition featuring freshwater otters and highlighting otters from around the world, opens March 31, 2007 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. "Wild About Otters" will take visitors on a tour of the world's otters—playful, charismatic animals found around the globe—and how healthy lakes, rivers and oceans are important to the survival of otters and other aquatic wildlife. In addition to the aquarium's permanent exhibit of California sea otters, the engaging new exhibition will feature African spotted-necked otters and Asian small-clawed otters in two large exhibits that represent their native river and lake habitats. Other live exhibits will showcase the unusual fishes, reptiles and plants found in those habitats, including vine snakes, box turtles, archerfish, cichlids, glass catfish, tetras, butterflyfish, betas, gouramis, water ferns, papyrus, water lilies and more. Exhibits overlooking Monterey Bay will highlight the aquarium's cutting-edge research work with wild sea otters, and will illustrate the differences between sea otters and river otters. A gallery of interactive displays will introduce visitors to all 13 species of otters found throughout the world—from the giant otters of South America to North American river otters. There will be a family arts and crafts room and many activities that appeal to children as well as adults. Media contact: Ken Peterson, Monterey Bay Aquarium, (831) 648-4922, [kpeterson@mbayaq.org](mailto:kpeterson@mbayaq.org). Public contact: (831) 648-4888, [equarist@mbayaq.org](mailto:equarist@mbayaq.org), [www.montereybayaquarium.org](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org).

#### **SACRAMENTO CAPITALS TENNIS TEAM MOVE TO ROSEVILLE**

Professional tennis team The Sacramento Capitals is relocating from Citrus Heights to Roseville for the 2007 World Team Tennis season. The Capitals' home matches will be played in a temporary stadium, Allstate Stadium, located in the Nordstrom parking lot of the Westfield Galleria at Roseville shopping mall. The stadium is expected to accommodate up to 5,000 spectators in bleachers and box seats. The Capitals will play seven home matches in July 2007. Each of World Team Tennis' 12 teams comprises two women and two men, and often features marquee players such as Pete Sampras, Venus Williams and

Anna Kournikova. Westfield Galleria at Roseville is expected to host The Capitals through 2011. World Team Tennis matches consist of women's singles and doubles, men's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. Individual tickets and season passes for The Capitals matches are available directly through The Capitals and onsite at Westfield Galleria at Roseville. Media contact: Erin Bernall, (831) 479-9290, [erin@bernall.com](mailto:erin@bernall.com). Public contact: Coleman Peiffer, Placer Valley Tourism, (916) 773-5400, [colemanp@placertourism.com](mailto:colemanp@placertourism.com), [www.placertourism.com](http://www.placertourism.com).

#### **SANTA CRUZ PREPS FOR BEACH BOARDWALK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

As the West Coast's oldest seaside amusement park prepares to turn 100 years old in 2007, a slew of festivities are planned during the year. Not only will the Boardwalk continue its regular events like free Friday night summertime concerts on the beach, 1907 nights where rides, hot dogs, soda and cotton candy are 75 cents, and discount nights where \$9.95 buys an unlimited ride pass after 5 p.m., but special events are also planned. The Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center in Downtown Santa Cruz is kicking off its special Centennial Exhibit, celebrating the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's history with art, artifacts and historical objects, beginning April 14, 2007 and continuing through September. Media contact: Christina Glynn, Santa Cruz Conference & Visitors Council, (831) 427-4405 x112, [cglynn@santacruz.org](mailto:cglynn@santacruz.org), [www.santacruz.org](http://www.santacruz.org). Public contact: Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, (831) 423-5590, [www.beachboardwalk.com](http://www.beachboardwalk.com).

#### **NEW CABINS AT TAMARACK LODGE & RESORT**

Tamarack Lodge & Resort, tucked in the pines on the shores of Twin Lakes in the Lakes Basin, is one of Mammoth's most popular resort getaways. This year, room will be made for more guests just in time for summer 2007 with two new cabins. Each cabin will have two bedrooms and will be nearly 900 square feet. The new cabins bring Tamarack's total number of cabins up to 31, plus 11 lodge rooms. The original Tamarack Lodge was built in 1924. Media contact:



Dana Vander Houwen, Mammoth Mountain, (760) 934-0645, [dana@mammoth-mtn.com](mailto:dana@mammoth-mtn.com).  
Public contact: 800-MAMMOTH (800-626-6684) or (760) 934-0745, [800mammoth@mammoth-mtn.com](mailto:800mammoth@mammoth-mtn.com), [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com).

**TORREY PINES MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE TO HOST U.S. OPEN**

Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course will host the prestigious United States Golf Association's U.S. Open on June 12–15, 2008. Torrey Pines Golf Course is the second municipal golf course ever selected to host this prestigious golf event. More than 40,000 fans are expected to attend the U.S. Open each day. Media contact: Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course, (858) 581-7171, [www.torreypinesgolfcourse.com](http://www.torreypinesgolfcourse.com).  
Public contact: [www.usopen.com](http://www.usopen.com).

**WEST CLIFF INN TO OPEN IN SANTA CRUZ SUMMER 2007**

The West Cliff Inn, the newest member of the Four Sisters Inns collection, will open in Santa Cruz in summer 2007. The West

Cliff Inn sits on a bluff across from the beach and the famous Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Built as a private home in 1877, the stately, three-story Italianate Victorian with its spacious, wraparound porch is being completely renovated. The West Cliff Inn will offer nine well-appointed guest rooms, each with a fireplace, marble tile bathrooms, and most with jetted spa tubs and king beds. One second-floor room will have a private, outdoor jetted hot tub; two spacious top-floor suites will have separate sitting areas and oversized bathrooms. The inn's breezy, coastal décor will include fabrics in crisp blues and whites, with rattan furnishings featuring a mix of recycled woods with natural, woven seagrass and artisan accessories. Each room will have high-speed Internet access, an iPod™ player, and a television with a DVD player. The inn is less than a mile from downtown shops, restaurants and attractions, and on the same street as the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum. Media contact: Sharon Rooney, Four Sisters Inns, (707) 838-1637, [sharon@foursisters.com](mailto:sharon@foursisters.com). Public contact: (831) 649-0908 or (800) 234-1425, [info@foursisters.com](mailto:info@foursisters.com).

**WILDLING MUSEUM IN LOS OLIVOS FEATURES "FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTS"**

The Wildling Museum is making a detour south, both to the American South and beyond to the South Pole, as seen through the lenses of two photographers in an exhibition called "Fragile Environments" beginning April 1 through June 17, 2007. From the frozen, icy landscapes of Antarctica, rendered in pigment prints by Roger Craton, to the lush, verdant Everglades of Florida revealed by Clyde Butcher in his large-scale black and white prints, these contrasting images are a rich visual testament to the extraordinary diversity and beauty of this planet. Though visually (and geographically) at polar opposites, these environments share the same threats—of pollution, overfishing, and human intrusions—to their fragile systems. Media contact: Holly Cline, Wildling Art Museum, (805) 688-1082, [holly@wildlingmuseum.org](mailto:holly@wildlingmuseum.org). Public contact: (805) 688-1082, [www.wildlingmuseum.org](http://www.wildlingmuseum.org).



**CALIFORNIA TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMMISSION**

980 9th Street, Suite 480  
Sacramento, CA 95814 USA

[visitcalifornia.com](http://visitcalifornia.com)

PRSRT Standard  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 1434  
Sacramento, CA

Got a name or address change?  
Just fax any changes to us at 916 444.0410.  
Please include a copy of your current mailing  
label with any necessary corrections.